NASA Project Management Challenge 2009

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2009

Sixth Annual NASA Project Management Seminar

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Systems Engineering Structural Barriers

Systems Engineering has become synonymous with the office of the Chief Engineer or Technical Director. This recognizes the breadth of influence that system level attributes have on the ultimate suitability and effectiveness of the completed system. Engineering disciplines require detailed understanding which is narrowly focused to optimize the subsystem performance. The Chief Engineer acts as a conductor to orchestrate the coordination, communication, and harmonized design maturity across subsystems. He must assume the role of system architect and engineering program manager to ensure work packages and resources are correctly scheduled to support efficient development of the complete product design. The Chief Engineer must adapt and translate his technical management of the developing system into the program manager's business environment.

This presentation will discuss the coordinated effort to establish an engineering plan which serves the technical team and program management team during development and deployment of the system. The Chief Engineer, or systems engineer, needs to understand programmatic and business realities along with a strong breadth of technical expertise. A strong Systems Engineering Technical Review (SETR) process which supports the on going technical oversight of the program can only be effectively implemented in a supportive business environment. Contractual support is needed for engineering artifacts that support oversight and interaction with the design. A roadmap and template for establishing the system engineer's environment at the beginning of a program and the subsequent roles and responsibilities within the program management team will be proposed.

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Michael Gaydar is currently the Chief Engineer, Systems Engineering Directorate, NAVAIR-4.1 at Patuxent River NAS, MD. He directly supports the Director-Air Systems Platforms and Director of Engineering providing technical oversight of all Department of the Navy manned and unmanned vehicles, embedded and supporting systems. He oversees and administers the Systems Engineering Technical Review Process (SETR) and Program Chief Engineers throughout NAVAIR.

Mr. Gaydar received a BS in Aerospace Engineering from the SUNY at Buffalo, 1978, and MS in Aerospace Engineering from Cornell University, 1982. Thesis topic was Diagnostic Techniques in Plasma Physics. After college, Mr. Gaydar became joined the United States Air Force and was assigned to the 1st Special Operations Squadron, Clark AB, Philippines. In 1988 he moved into Air Force Special Projects working as a project engineer for several cold war reconnaissance programs. He established the Special Operations Software Support Facility at Warner Robins AFB and was Air Superiority

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Branch Chief at the Pentagon in Air Force Studies and Analysis providing analytic support to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Retiring in 2002 as the Chief Engineer for the Air Force Special Operations CV-22B with 3200 hours in C-130, C-141, and F-15 aircraft, he remained at Patuxent River NAS as the NAVAIR Class Desk for the CV-22B.

In 2003, Mr. Gaydar joined the procurement team for the VH-71, Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program. He developed the system specification and led the technical team for source selection. After contract award, he remained as Class Desk for the first year of development before assuming his current position in May 2006.